

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-22 and 24-32 are pending in the present application. Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20-22, 25, 27-29, 31, and 32 are amended without adding new matter and Claims 23 and 33-35 are cancelled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 25-32 and 33-35 were withdrawn from consideration; Claims 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claims 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 13 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yoshitaka et al. (Japanese Patent Application JP10-158041, herein "Yoshitaka"); Claims 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshitaka in view of Lenhardt (U.S. Patent No. 5,051,145, herein "Lenhardt '145") and Lenhardt (U.S. Patent No. 4,708,762, herein "Lenhardt '762"); and Claims 17 and 20 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on May 3, 2005. During the interview, the differences between the claims and the applied art were discussed. Further, clarifying claim amendments, similar to those presented herewith, were discussed. Examiner Rossi indicated that the discussed claim amendments would distinguish over the applied art. Arguments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

Regarding the withdrawal of Claims 25-32, because Claims 25-32 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 13, which has been indicated to overcome the applied art, these claims are believed to be allowable if Claim 13 is found to be allowable. Accordingly, Claims 25, 27-29, 31, and 32 have been amended to be consistent with Claim 13 and in view of the rejections of Claims 13-24 under the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 13-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Claim 23 has been cancelled and Claims 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 22 have been amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. As discussed during the interview, Claim 15 is maintained because Figure 2 shows that rollers 25 are attached to a first pair of suction boxes 18 and a part of the rollers 25 extends beyond the faces 21 of the first pair of suction boxes 18 facing the first glass sheet 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 13-24 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 13-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 23 have been amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 13 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yoshitaka, that rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 13 has been amended to correct minor informalities and to recite “a first stationary holder” instead of “a holder” to better distinguish the first stationary holder of the first stage movement apparatus from “a suction chuck” located on an actuator driven frame. The claim amendment finds support in the specification, for example at page 14, lines 23-24.

Briefly recapitulating, amended independent Claim 13 is directed to a method of preparing a double glazing unit, the method including positioning first and second glass sheets, maintaining a fixed distance gap between the first and second glass sheets, moving the first and second glass sheets, and maintaining the fixed distance gap while the first and second glass sheets are moved. The maintaining of the fixed distance gap between the first and second glass sheets is achieved with a stationary first holder that uses a suction force and the moving of the first and second glass sheets is achieved with a first driven guide located in

the first stage movement apparatus, a second driven guide located in the second stage movement apparatus, and a suction chuck located on an actuator driven frame.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 1 shows the stationary first holder 17 or 19 of the first stage movement apparatus, the first driven guide 20a, the second driven guide 27a, the suction chuck 33, and the actuator driven frame 30.

Turning to the applied art, Yoshitaka shows in Figure 4 a device having a first driven guide 22a, a second driven guide 22b, and a movable maintenance frame 25. However, as discussed during the interview, the stationary first holder and the suction chuck are two different elements and Yoshitaka does not teach or suggest both of these elements. In addition, as also discussed during the interview, Yoshitaka does not teach or suggest an actuator driven frame because element 24 of Yoshitaka is a fixed rail that can not move, and thus element 24 of Yoshitaka does not correspond to the claimed actuator driven frame.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 13 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Yoshitaka.

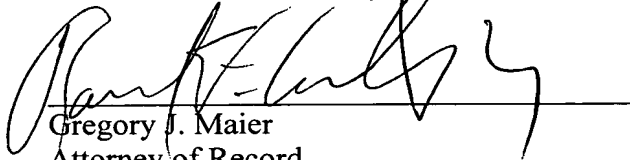
Regarding the rejection of Claims 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshitaka in view of Lenhardt '145 and Lenhardt '762, that rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Neither Lenhardt '145 nor Lenhardt '762 overcomes the deficiencies of Yoshitaka discussed above. In addition, Claims 14-20 depend from independent Claim 13, which is believed to be allowable as discussed above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 14-20 are also allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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